



CALPEEK

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THE BATTLE FOR CONTROLLER: WILL THIS BE McCLINTOCK'S YEAR? OR DOES CONNELL BUY IT?

Editor's note: Here is CALPEEK's brief update & analysis on the controller's race...

...In fiscal conservative Tom McClintock voters have a guy who not only describes himself as "cheap," but who promises to "audit the snot out of every bureaucrat in the State" if he's elected. In Demo Kathleen Connell voters have a *deep-pocketed* business executive who is a fresh face to politics, having never run for office before. Like McClintock, Connell came through the primary with a solid win. In mid-summer surveys Connell held a 31% to 25% lead in the Field Poll and held a 35% to 25% lead in a S.F. Examiner Poll. But some CALPEEK sources feel the gap has *narrowed* since mid-summer...

...To date, this down-ballot contest has been low-keyed and hardly covered by the news media. That may be to Connell's advantage, because the less said about her time at L.A. City Hall as housing director under former L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley, the better. News clips from the late 1980s are not especially flattering. McC too has some warts --- a voting record to defend while in the Assembly from 1982-92. He had a lousy environmental record and voted to restrict abortion funds...

...The two will finally have a face-to-face joint appearance on KOVR-TV in Sacto (to be aired Oct. 2nd). McC is an expert on the budget and knows the minutia of State government like the back of his hand, so don't look for Connell to do too many of these types of events where technical questions might cause politically embarrassing slips. Connell's camp says they have only had 4 invites for joint appearances and even the McC camp says that invites are slow in coming...

...Issues: the two are clearly apart on a number of key

issues, but perhaps CRIME is a big difference between them. Connell has received most of the key rank & file law enforcement endorsement in CA, including PORAC and CCPOA (correctional officers). McC makes no bones about his desire for *prison cost reforms*. He wants to make inmates work and thinks that a \$55,000 salary (and benefits package) for a correctional officer is out of line. He'd also like to privatize minimum security prisons. McC's stand sent the CCPOA over the prison wall and into Connell's waiting arms...

...But when all is said and done, the key factor in this battle will be **money**. And here we'll just have to wait until the new disclosure reports are released Oct. 5th. In the past, McC has not been noted as an especially good fundraiser. As for Connell, during the mid-summer period, she announced she was not putting any more of her family's money into the race. In the primary she dumped in about \$1.5 million of her own. Many sources think Connell will have a *late October Surprise* and will dump more of her own funds into this race. Other sources wonder if she's *tapped out*. P.S. With 36 days to go, CALPEEK still rates this contest as a toss up. However, the Oakland Tribune recently endorsed McClintock. Stay tuned...

PROP. 184 UPDATE: CAN "3 STRIKES" BE STOPPED???

Editor's note: The most recent survey data in the L.A. Times shows Prop. 184 --- aka "The 3 Strikes and You're Out" Initiative --- to be leading by a margin of 59% to 29%, with 12% undecided, when a description of the measure is read. Unaided, Prop. 184 is winning, but undecided jumps to 46%, compared to YES at 42%. Is there wiggle room to make this a close race? Here is CALPEEK's update & analysis...

... For those who have been living on Mars, "3 Strikes" is already a state law, thanks to the Jones/Costa bill,

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AB 971. The initiative by Mike Reynolds is on the ballot for only one reason: if it passes by a wide margin, State lawmakers might think twice before trying to amend the law. It's not easy to amend the law in any case, because it takes a 2/3rds vote...

...Should the initiative be approved? There are arguments on both sides and as most CALPEEK readers know, there were several different "3 Strikes" bills which were introduced. Some think the Rainey-Umberg version was a better, more tightly drafted bill because the 3rd strike sending a person to prison from 25 years to life only applied if the 3rd strike was a ***serious and violent felony***. The new law (and initiative) sends a person to prison from 25 years to life on any kind of a third strike felony. And this is where the public policy discussion gets sticky...

...A recent study by RAND notes that while the new law could reduce serious crime by 1/3, new prison costs and all the associated costs in the criminal justice system under this law would prevent the law from ever being fully implemented. And it's the costs of "3 Strikes" where opponents will focus, because the RAND study suggests that if you implement the law the way it's written, the state will have to either raise taxes or have massive cuts in spending...

...To keep the prison population from exploding, YES on 184 backers say that DAs and judges don't have to impose the 3rd strike, if the circumstances are justified. And YES on 184 cite a governor's study showing the law saving money in what co-author Bill Jones says are societal savings. Gov. Wilson's study has been disputed by RAND...

...Can an effective argument be made to persuade voters to oppose 184? NO on 184 consultant Leo McElroy says it's ***doable***. What about money? NO on 184 won't be a total charity case, but don't look for TV. Instead look for a heavy radio campaign, if the money is there. Stay tuned...

TORRES TO DISCUSS INSURANCE REFORM IN L.A.

State Sen. Art Torres, Demo candidate for Insurance Commissioner, will address the L.A. Public Affairs Officers Assn., 11:30 a.m., Oct. 4, Sheraton Grande Hotel, L.A. For info, call Karen Legier at ARCO (213)486-1931...

CENTRAL VALLEY PART II: DEMO/GOP WARFARE.

Editor's note: Here is Part II of our update & analysis of Central Valley House & Legislative races...

● **11th C.D.** - There's not much new in this battle between freshman U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo(R-Stockton) and Randy Perry(D). As we've said in past stories, Pombo is the favorite because Perry hasn't shown the ability to raise the kind of money necessary to wage a competitive campaign. Will some late money surge into Perry's campaign? CALPEEK sources say YES and it may be around \$100,000. Is that enough? To both build positive name ID and to bash Pombo in this 49% D vs. 40% R district --- probably not, but anything is possible. Pombo does have weaknesses, such as his vote against the crime bill and there has been some recent negative publicity about his use of *congressional franking* (nothing illegal, but he has used it to the tune of \$113,000 --- compared to an average use of about \$40,000)...

● **27th A.D.** - This is the district once represented by Sam Farr(D), now held by GOP Assemblyman Bruce McPherson of Santa Cruz. The Demo is attorney Bill Monning, who does **not** want assistance from the Assembly Demos, despite the fact that they have targeted this race. McPherson is a moderate, fits the district well and has good political instincts. He's up on TV and has sufficient funding. The line on this race is thin if Monning can be competitive with McPherson on TV and with mail, he might have a shot because he does have an excellent field operation. But for now will continue to give McPherson an edge *despite* the 51% D vs. 30% R registration...

● **28th A.D.** - The favorite for this OPEN seat is Coastal Comm. Lily Cervantes(D) of Salinas. Her GOP rival is rancher Peter Frusetta of Tres Pinos. Demos have a registration drive underway and the numbers look good --- 52.2% D vs. 33.6% R. Sources say Cervantes has good ag support and she's got a good ground operation. So unless the GOP throws lots of money for Frusetta, this district should stay in Demo hands...

● **17th A.D.** - One of the more highly publicized assembly battles will take place for this OPEN seat

occupied by Dean Andal(R-Stockton). This is the second go-round for Demo Mike Machado, having lost to Andal in 1992. Like 12 other districts, the Demos have a registration drive underway and the numbers are now 53.4% D vs. 36.8% R --- that's up for both parties. The GOP candidate is 2-term San Joaquin Co. Sup. Ed Simas, who has pumped in about \$85,000 of his own money. And he is up on TV/cable with a combined total of \$124,000, according to his campaign. If Machado can be competitive with mail, he has a 50-50 chance of winning because unlike 1992, he does have law & order as well as ag support (CA Farm Bureau). In addition, he's walking like crazy in those areas he lost in 1992. At this point, CALPEEK rates the race as a toss up, but it could start to lean in Machado's direction if the money comes through. Stay tuned...

U.S. SENATE RACE: MEDIA TAKES AIM AT ARIANNA.

Editor's note: Even though the latest Field Poll shows a deadlocked race between Michael Huffington(R) and U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D), the free media scrutiny is beginning to really zero in on Mrs. Arianna Huffington and her links to religious cult guru John-Roger --- founder of the Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness or MSIA. Here is our update & analysis...

...The latest stories about the Huffingtons appear in the Oct. 3rd issue of Time Magazine (Margaret Carlson); the October issue of Esquire (Walter Shapiro); and an article in the Sept. 26th edition of the Orange Co. Register. Although all 3 articles deal with both Michael and Arianna, most the focus is on Mrs. Huffington and her links to John-Roger & MSIA...

...There's never been much doubt that Arianna is a very bright, charming and intelligent person. And there's been little doubt that she's working as hard (some would say harder) as her husband in this campaign. She is, in the opinion of some, the *co-candidate*. And there seems little doubt that Michael Huffington's central campaign issue - *welfare reform* - may have come directly from his wife. As a Washington Post headline once noted, "*Her Brains, His Money*."...

...But it's the John-Roger stuff that's got insiders buzzing. And a new book about religious cults by Peter McWilliams (called "Life 102") is now on sale. Is Mrs. Huffington active in MSIA? Is she a MSIA minister? In the Time story by Carlson, Arianna says she's not

been active with J-R or MSIA for 8 years. As for being a MSIA minister, in Time Carlson writes that Arianna "calmly admits the connection." In past statements she's denied it. As for giving money to J-R or MSIA, from late 1990 to 1992, Arianna gave \$35,000 to the Inst. for Individual & World Peace -- formerly known as the John-Roger Foundation. Arianna's name shows up as a contributor in official records of the IIWP, as does McWilliams' name. Would any of these contributions to MSIA or IIWP show up on the Huffington's tax returns? No one knows because the IRS returns have not been released. Stay tuned...

S.F. SUPERVISORS RACE: NARROWING THE FIELD.

Editor's note: There are five(5) seats on the S.F. Bd. of Supes up for grabs Nov. 8th. Here's a brief update & analysis...

...There's a large field of candidates running for the Board of Supervisors, but realistically only 6-7 candidates have a real shot at winning. Those who look the strongest are incumbents Carol Migden, Kevin Shelley and Annemarie Conroy. And there's general agreement among sources that non-incumbent Tom Ammiano looks like he has a good shot...

...So who wins the 5th seat? It looks like a battle between incumbent Susan Leal, community college trustee Mabel Teng and perhaps labor candidate Sylvia Courtney -- if she has the money...

...All of the key frontrunners are Demos *except* Conroy. She was appointed to the Board by Mayor Frank Jordan and her campaign is being run by consultant Clint Reilly. And here's where it gets messy. According to the S.F. Examiner's Insiders (Jane Ganahl & Barbara Taylor), the 5 leading Demos (Migden, Shelley, Ammiano, Leal & Teng) were "invited" to be on Clint's CA Democratic Voter Checklist slate for \$20,000 to \$25,000. The 5 Demos politely told Clint to stuff it because they didn't want to be on a Demo slate with Republican Conroy. The 5 Demos will be on the S.F. Co. Demo Central Cmt.'s slate...

...FYI: If you're watching polls for the 1995 mayor's race in S.F., here's one by David Binder (Sept. 14-18), 525 registered voters on Mayor Jordan's job performance. Approve 35%, disapprove 44% and don't know 21%. Stay tuned...

CRL TO HOST TEDDY ROOSEVELT DINNER & CONF.

The CA Republican League (the moderates) will sponsor an all-day event called the 1st annual Teddy Roosevelt Dinner & Conference, Oct. 22 at the Holiday Inn in Buena Park. The conference will feature workshops, speeches by GOP candidates, a noon luncheon honoring GOP Assembly candidate Marilyn Brewer, a 2:30 p.m. debate on Prop. 187, a 4 p.m. debate on the El Toro initiative and a 7 p.m. dinner with keynote speaker U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA). For info, contact Roger Hughes (714)838-1350...

OAKLAND MAYOR'S RACE: HARRIS VS. DANG.

Editor's note: The mayor's race in Calif.'s 7th largest city is beginning to heat up, thanks to Measure S and a breaking story out of L.A. dealing with the laundering of campaign contributions to political officeholders. Here's our update...

...The battle between 1st term incumbent Mayor Elihu Harris and businessman Ted Dang could be a very close race, or it might be a blow-out --- depending on which poll you want to believe. A survey conducted for consultant Larry Tramutola (not involved with Harris or Dang) showed Harris with 39% to Dang's 28% among registered voters. But among *likely voters*, Dang held a slim lead, 45.1% to 44.8%. However, remember this: in a general Statewide election where there are important local issues and candidates, turnout in Oakland is usually pretty good. This might tend to favor Harris...

...On the other hand, Harris sure didn't need the publicity he got on Sept. 27th in an L.A. Times story about laundered/concealed contributions from Los Angeles Marathon Inc. to a number of L.A. politicians and to Harris --- who got 40 contributions in 1989 and 1990 totaling \$21,000. Why Harris got the money started out as a mystery, but there's a connection through L.A. Co. Sup. Yvonne Burke, whose husband, Bill Burke, is president of L.A. Marathon. In the 1970s when Sup. Burke was a congresswoman, Harris was on her staff. When he was running for mayor, he asked for a political contribution. Will Harris' connection to this L.A. scandal turn into an Oakland brouhaha? The Dang campaign sure hopes so...

...Sandwiched between all this recent stuff is Measure S, a local initiative to repeal the city's landscape &

lighting assessment district (LLAD), set up by the city in 1989. Dang favors repeal, while Harris is opposed to repeal. The fee for LLAD amounts to about \$9.75 per month/per home. If the landscape and lighting costs were to come out of the city's general fund, the figure would be about \$15 million per year. COAT --- Citizens of Oakland Against Oppressive Taxes, wants the city to cut salaries, perks and fat from the budget in place of the LLAD fee. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

- **New Field Poll on #187** - The newest Statewide data from pollster Mervin Field shows Prop. 187 (barring illegal immigrants from health, education and welfare benefits) still holding a comfortable lead, 57% to 31%, with 12% undecided. In July YES on 187 was a little higher at 64%, with the NO side at 27%. And as might be expected, the SOS measure does better in So. Calif. (62% yes) than in No. Calif. (50% yes)...

- **Give Me That Ole Time Religion** - The 4th largest *radio format* in the U.S. is religion and surveys show that Christian radio audiences are more than twice as likely to vote as the average radio audience. And a very large percentage tend to vote for GOP candidates and support conservative causes. That's no secret. What may be a secret are the number of such radio stations in Calif. --- as many as 70-100, with Salem Media of CA owning a string of 7 stations, running from S.F. to San Diego. Not all of the religious format stations are what you'd call commercial -- in other words the only advertising they accept is of a religious nature. But the larger stations take all sorts of advertising, including political spots. In L.A., one of the oldest stations on the air is KGER in Long Beach. Ad rates vary, but a :60 sec. political spot on KGER runs about \$30, compared to \$250-300 on a talk or music station. Is advertising on one of these religious format stations effective? The listening audiences are small compared to a talk or all-news station, but the listeners are loyal and they do vote...